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In the conduct of the war from beginning to the end Japan offended but seldom against the established rules of war. The action of the Japanese in cutting out the Russian warship *Ryeshetelni* from the neutral Chinese port of Chefoo and the violation of the neutrality of Korea are held to be the only serious offenses against the laws of nations committed by that country. Even these can be partially justified, the former by the fact that the Russians were allowed to make the Chinese ports harbors of refuge whenever hard pressed by the Japanese and the latter by the peculiar treaty relations existing between Korea and Japan. The commencement of war before a declaration of hostilities, of which Russia complained, was in accordance with modern practice as was instanced by the action of Russia herself in at least two previous cases. In comparison with this record that of Russia is painted black indeed. Chief among the instances of her violation of the rules of war we find the following scattered through different chapters:

1. Unwarranted extension of the definition of contraband, making destination instead of use the test of liability to capture.
2. The enlistment of criminal convicts as soldiers.
3. Scattering mines outside territorial waters.
4. The claim that war correspondents may be treated as spies.
5. Unwarranted extension of the right of search.
6. Arbitrary destruction of neutral prizes when not justified by urgent necessity.

In addition, disregard of the Declaration of Paris and the treaties closing the Bosphorus and Dardanelles are charged, not to mention numerous minor delinquencies.

The author does not forget in presenting this list of unjustifiable acts and claims, that the war brought out the fact that some of the rules violated are rendered inadequate by modern inventions. Among the changes discussed are the extension of territorial waters to beyond the three-mile limit, increased regulation of war correspondents on account of their increased efficiency due to the invention of wireless telegraphy, the modification of the "due diligence" rules as to neutral responsibility in fitting out vessels of war and the regulation of the use of mines on the high seas.

Well digested chapters are presented upon the rules of war adopted by the belligerents, the Hay note, the North Sea incident and the relations of England and the United States during the war and consequent upon it. The book is well printed and has an excellent index.

CHESTER LLOYD JONES.

University of Pennsylvania.

Holdich, Sir Thomas H. *Tibet, the Mysterious.* Pp. xii, 356. Price, \$3.00.

New York: F. A. Stokes Co., 1906.

The weird and unknown have a fascination. The unexplored corners of the earth have always excited the daring of men who risk their lives for the furtherance of geography. This is especially true of Tibet, where is the glamour of a mystic religion and stretches of unknown land, with difficulties to daunt the bravest.

In the scholarly work, "Tibet, the Mysterious," Colonel Sir Thomas H. Holdich has given an account of Tibet from earliest times up to the invasion by Colonel Younghusband. While the casual reader may wish that the names of the places were less difficult and the different routes less confusing, yet after the first few chapters the book holds the interest. This is especially true where descriptions are given of the strange customs of the Tibetans,—the flower festival of the desert where sacred themes are represented in butter, the description of Lhasa and the idea of the reincarnation of the lama in the body of an infant.

Tibetan exploration has been exhaustively studied by Colonel Holdich. He gives the general geography of Tibet, the geology, the general outline of Tibetan history, with an account of the introduction of Buddhism and Chinese interference. He then describes the eighteenth century explorations, beginning with that of the Jesuit fathers, Grueber and Derville. It may surprise many to learn that before the time of Colonel Younghusband's mission much was known about Tibet, and even Lhasa. At one time Tibet and Nepal were open to Europeans equally with the Asiatic traveler, and it is only within comparatively recent times that Lhasa has been closed against them. For thirty-eight years a Christian mission of the Capuchins existed in the very capital itself, and later Capuchins and Jesuits strove for precedence in Tibet. In 1811 an Englishman, Thomas Manning, visited Lhasa and was allowed an audience with the lama. In 1846 the Jesuit missionaries Huc and Gabet reached the sacred city. These were the last Europeans to enter the great religious center up to the time of Colonel Younghusband's invasion. After 1846 many explorers braved the greatest difficulties to reach Lhasa, only to be turned back by the watchful Chinese officials. A fairly good knowledge of the topography of Tibet was secured by these explorers, who failed to reach their goal. Much has been done, especially in the south, by native surveyors in the employ of the British government. To these Colonel Holdich pays a glowing tribute. Nain Sing, in 1865, and Ugyen, in 1883, penetrated to the sacred city itself, bringing back interesting accounts of what they saw. It is to Krishna that we are indebted for the only plan of the city of Lhasa up to 1903. From these accounts we get an idea of the enormous difficulties that must be surmounted in the exploration of Tibet.

The author, in giving the progress of Tibetan exploration, brings out the value of Tibet in its political and commercial relations with India. In spite of explorations the plateau is still a guardian buffer to the northern approaches of India. It is not so much the obstacles of ridges and ranges in the north which prevented the high road across the barrier of five hundred miles between inhabited Chinese Turkestan and the Brahmaputra. It is the absence of good water—the barren, dry and storm-swept waste. In the west also no route to Lhasa has been discovered which could be called practicable for military purposes. On the east and northeast it is a different question, as the routes have no great difficulties. The southern approaches are in the hands of the British. To gain possession of the northeast would mean to dominate commercial relations with Tibet. The fact that Tibet is

rich in gold makes the question still more important. Colonel Holdich closes his book with the statement that it is only the official indisposition to advance beyond the Indian frontier which "bars the way to the establishment of a line of commercial traffic both along the Brahmaputra and northeastwards to China."

LURENA WILSON TOWER.

Philadelphia.

Jackson, A. V. Williams. *Persia: Past and Present.* Pp. xxx, 471. Price, \$4.00, net. New York: Macmillan Co., 1906.

The appearance of "Persia: Past and Present," marks an important addition to knowledge, by one of the first living scholars. Its author is A. V. Williams Jackson, professor of Indo-Iranian languages, and sometime adjunct professor of the English language and literature in Columbia University. Prepared thus by years of the closest application and preparation, as well as by an earlier tour of India and a study of the Parsees there, gifted with unusual powers of appreciation and observation, and possessed of untiring energy and a critical judgment, Professor Jackson has added more to our knowledge of this once important land than any scholar since Sir Henry Rawlinson. His most important contribution is indeed directly in the footsteps of this greatest of modern Persian scholars, for he has achieved the feat not only of being the first to follow Rawlinson in examining the all but inaccessible inscriptions of King Darius on the great Behistun Rock, but even of photographing the most important parts, thus throwing new light on some of the mooted passages in the cuneiform text studied only once before, fifty years earlier, by Rawlinson. To do this was indeed one of the objects of his trip, the general purpose of which was a serious study and examination of all of the more important of the ancient monuments of the early empires of the Medes and Persians. A further object was to perfect his study of the ancient religion of Persia, in the treatment of which his earlier volume, "Zoroaster," has already taken first rank. By persistent inquiry, examination and research Professor Jackson has accomplished a further service in identifying many hitherto unknown or unrecognized locations of ancient fire temples. Finally, his study of the beliefs, traditions, and life of the modern Zoroastrians at Isfahan, Yezd, and Teheran, and his interpretation of the historic significance of their manners and customs is the most complete that has yet been made; indeed, in all his observations of present-day Persia, its life, its beliefs and its traditions, Professor Jackson has always before him the search for survivals of the ancient religion.

The volume is the story of three months of hard work, during which the author examined with care all the more important monuments, scattered over a land of distances, in which travel is chiefly by caravan, the difficulties and discomforts of which can be appreciated only by those who have experienced them. It is a book of travel and of research, and is of interest and value alike to the scholar and the traveler,—an unusual combination, for few travelers are scholars, and few scholars are travelers.